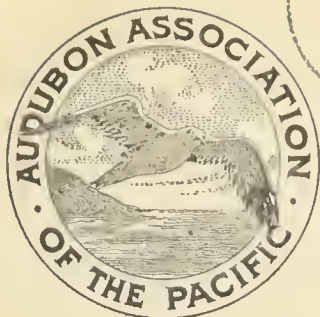


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# THE

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**DECEMBER MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, the ninth inst., at eight o'clock in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, 2nd Floor, Room 19.

The feature of the evening will be an address by Miss M. E. McClelan, Assistant Curator at the California Academy of Sciences. The subject will be "A Day With the Birds at Camp Humphrey, Virginia."

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**DECEMBER FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, December 12th, to Golden Gate Park. Take McAllister car No. 5, "Beach" sign, to 43rd Avenue entrance on Fulton St. Bring lunch.

The usual route will be followed, skirting Chain of Lakes, and passing Stadium, Spreckels, Lloyd Lakes, ending at Japanese Tea Garden, where lunch will be eaten if the party so desires. This will give those who care to, an opportunity to attend the Sunday afternoon lecture at the California Academy of Sciences, at three o'clock—"Recent Developments in China," by Dr. Ng Poon Chew.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING:** The one hundred-sixteenth regular meeting of the Association was held on November 11th, in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, with Mr. Carl Smith, President, in the chair; Mr. Parry, Secretary; seventeen members and friends present.

Mr. O. J. Heinemann, member of the California Camera Club, told those present many interesting and important things about bird photography. Among the points mentioned was the fact that a better picture of a gull in flight can often be secured on a windy day than in still weather, because then the bird soars and there is no wing motion to interfere. Also in taking a bird's picture it pays to take several views as the photographer approaches the subject, even if they are not at so close a range as desired, since if one always waited until one could be as near as wanted, the bird in many cases would have taken flight and the subject would be lost altogether. In the first instance a good series may be procured with the close-up included.

Mr. Heinemann showed some of his photographs and explained the manner of making same. A number of Mr. Heinemann's pictures were used in illustrating Dawson's Birds of California.

## AUGUSTUS SAYRE KIBBE

'Neath whispering hemlock branches  
On Lincoln's shoulder steep  
His ashes now lie buried;  
'Twas there he wished to sleep.

No sounds disturb his slumber;  
Sweet peace holds gentle sway;  
But Nature's children gambol  
With none to say them nay.

'Twas here he found Pine Grosbeaks  
And heard the Chickadee,  
Whose cheery double whistle  
Soon sets one's spirit free.

'Twas here the Clarke Nutcracker  
Had hid away his nest  
While still the snow lay drifted  
On Lincoln's hoary breast.

And these are now his guardians.  
Though wintry winds may blow,  
They watch above his pillow;  
They fear nor wind nor snow.

And when the Mountain Bluebirds  
At call of Spring attend,  
They'll share the loving vigil  
O'er one they knew as friend.

—(Mrs.) Amelia S. Allen.

In accordance with the wishes of Mr. Kibbe his ashes were scattered from the top of Mt. Lincoln in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.



## DOWN THE SAN PEDRO RIVER

The San Pedro is one of the longest rivers in Mexico, where long rivers are few, starting in the mountains of the State of Durango and flowing through part of that State westward to the Pacific.

My trip started from Tuxpan, where the river is broad and swift, but shallow in many places. Indian dugouts or canoes are the only means of transportation. We were to start at break of day to avoid the worst of the sun, and actually got off about eight o'clock, but luckily the day was cloudy, even showery. Antonio piled all my driers and equipment amidships while I sat in the prow and he stood astern with a long pole and a broad paddle for the deeper places. The pole ended in a curved cow's horn, which I was told gave better purchase in the sandy bottom. The canoes are hollowed out of a single tree trunk by hand in the mountains and brought down to the low lands to sell. In the rainy season all of the freighting and passenger travel is carried on with them.

The shores of the river were low, and many sand banks showed up. As soon as we were fairly started birds began to show up. Between Tuxpan and Mexcatitlan, my destination, there is but one human habitation, so the bird life is undisturbed.

The first birds I saw in numbers were my old friends, the black-necked stilts, and they trailed their red legs behind them and uttered their sharp cries in flight just as they did last May at Los Banos, California. Here, how-

ever, they had no family cares, and they waded and probed on the sand banks by tens and hundreds and later on it seemed to me by thousands.

Great blue herons were almost continually in sight along the bank. They seemed to have the river portioned out, for one would be seen taking his ease in a little cove, come to attention as we drifted along, look at us suspiciously out of one eye, turn his head to examine us with the other eye to be sure he was seeing straight and then flap heavily away in disgust. At just about a certain distance we would come to another one who would repeat the performance.

When we came near enough to the sandy shores little fellows like our spotted sandpipers could be seen. These ran about and bobbed up and down in a comic fashion.

A large dead fish had attracted a number of turkey buzzards, of which there are two kinds here, one like ours with a red head and neck and the other which is somewhat smaller and has a black head and neck. Mingled with these was another carrion feeder. He is dull black or brownish black with white feathered head and neck somehow less repulsive than the buzzards. These are not seen soaring eternally in the beautiful circles described in the sky by buzzards, but are found often sitting on dead trees or in the fields. The peons say they are useful, catching rats and field mice and destroying carrion.

After about three hours poling down stream we reached the two thatched huts on the river bank where a couple of families lived to care for some cattle pastured near by. A decided drizzle had now commenced so we stopped here awhile, and put a waterproof covering over my equipment. We were received with the courtesy always shown by even the poorest Mexican peon, and given tortillas or corn cakes and cream cheese. The rain soon passed and we resumed our journey.

Above us many swallows flitted and wheeled, dipping every now and again for a sip of water. As we went along, the river commenced to spread out in shallow lagoons and bird life became more varied. I could only catch sight of a few of the many varieties. As fish are plentiful in the river many fish-eaters were about. Among them a kingfisher whose back is brilliant dark green and wings the color on the neck of a mallard drake. In some of the trees near the water's brink highly colored birds appeared.

As one nears the estuary of the river the change in the vegetation is marked. In the upper stretches occasional willows or other solitary tropical trees are seen, but as the river widens and shallows the vegetation becomes denser, medium sized trees stand closer and are all but smothered by vine growth, mostly *convolvulaceae*, now out of bloom, until each individual tree looks as though it were weighted down with green snow. One wonders how the tree manages to function at all with its leaves all covered over. Ducks were seen in the distance.

About this time we began to get into trouble. The river divides up into many streamlets, the mangroves and other water-loving plants and trees form thickets in the shallow water and the pretty but choking water hyacinth closes the rivulets. Antonio and passenger had to get out of the canoe and cut a way through the vegetation and drag the canoe over the muddy bottom. Large wading birds were on the islets. At four o'clock my real thrill came when several "garzas morenas" (authority Antonio) flew evenly across, a beautiful rose pink, the color of clouds at evening, and descended gracefully in the shallows. One sees them in pictures and sometimes in zoological gardens, but how different from at last seeing them free and unfrightened, at home, as an integral part of the landscape to which they belong.



## THE GULL

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After that we came out in the beautiful lagoon which the river forms and on its one little island, Mexcatitlan.

YNES MEXIA.

\* \* \*

### SHORE BIRDS

This is the fourth season counting spring and fall separately that shore birds have been rather scarce on the Alameda shores and on Bay Farm Island. In fact, at times when conditions have been ideal as far as time of year, time of day and tide were concerned there were no birds at all. A few times in October a flock of some ninety willets were feeding at Fernside. Western and red backed sandpipers with a scattering of black bellied plovers at Fernside and Bay Farm Island, and sanderlings near the bridge have been frequently observed, but nothing compared to former years when there were hundreds of birds and some parts of the shore were literally covered. I am more than anxious to know what other observers have noticed in other localities and would appreciate if they would communicate with me so that there will be some basis to work on, as to whether birds of this class are becoming rarer or if they have found more favorable feeding grounds in their migration flights, etc. A snail, *Illyganassa obsoleta*, is increasing very rapidly along our shores. It was brought here from the East with some seed oysters about 1909. As the snail is carnivorous it would be interesting to determine whether or not it is destroying the natural food of shore birds.

JUNEA W. (MRS. G. EARLE) KELLY.

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NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, November 14th, to the University Campus and Strawberry Canyon. Lunch was eaten at Stephen's Union Memorial Hall lunch grounds.

The day was mild, clear and sunny, just the type of day for birds to be stirring in the open. Golden crown kinglets bathing gave all a good opportunity to see these tiny feathered creatures that usually test an observer's patience and neck muscles.

The following birds were seen: California quail, Cooper's, red-tailed and sparrow hawks, Willow woodpecker, red breasted sapsucker, flicker, Anna humming bird, black phoebe, California and coast jays, meadow lark, Brewer blackbird, purple finch, Nuttall and golden sparrows, junco, song and fox sparrows, San Francisco and brown towhees, Audobon and Townsend warblers, vigor's wren, titmouse, bushtits, wrentit, golden and ruby crowned kinglets, hermit thrush, robin and western bluebird. Thirty-two species.

Members in attendance were: Misses Ayer, Bogle, Cockefaire, Cohen, Crum, Haefner, Pettit, and Richards; Mesdames Myer, Hall and Kibbe; Messrs. Bryant, Myer and Bourne. Guests present were: Misses Banks, Carnahan, Cronen, Cummings, McCullough, Wilcox; Mesdames Bourne, Bracelin and Fletcher; Scout Davy Taylor, and Girl Scouts E. Peart, B. Hansen and L. Wright. Fifteen members and twelve guests.

MURIEL PETTIT, *Historian*.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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Meets second Thursday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the State Board of Harbor Commissioners, Ferry Building, Second Floor, Room 19.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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